

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEA-11 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-12 /105 W
-----095579 292337Z /21

R 291611Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3755
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S
PRESS CONFERENCE

1. PRAVDA JUNE 28 CARRIED A FAIRLY LENGTHY TASS-
WASHINGTON PIECE (ASSUME DEPT. HAS TASS/FBIS TEXT)
WHICH REPORTS PRESIDENT CARTER'S
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JUNE 26 PRESS CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS. THE ARTICLE USES EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS
OF THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS TO REPORT THE SUBSTANCE OF
HIS REMARKS. THE STORY ESSENTIALLY IS WRITTEN IN A
STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER, WITH NO ATTEMPT TO COMMENT,
ALTHOUGH THE FINAL PARAGRAPH CITES THE U.S. PRESS
(THE WASHINGTON POST IN PARTICULAR) TO THE EFFECT

THAT THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS ARE AN ATTEMPT TO
"REMOVE THE ACUTENESS" FROM RECENT SOVIET-AMERICAN
RELATIONS.

2. AMONG THE QUOTATIONS INCLUDED IN THE TASS ACCOUNT:

- THE U.S. WANTS FRIENDSHIP AND IMPROVED RELATIONS
WITH THE USSR AND, ALTHOUGH COMPETITION IS INEVITABLE,
THE U.S. WANTS ACCOMMODATION;

-- PRESIDENT CARTER BELIEVES BREZHNEV WANTS PEACE
BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES;

-- THE U.S. WANTS RAPID PROGRESS IN SALT, AND THE
PROSPECTS FOR MBFR ARE BETTER THAN ONE MONTH AGO;

-- THE U.S. IS NOT TRYING TO PLAY THE SOVIETS AGAINST
THE CHINESE, BUT THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE
PEACE WITH THE USSR AND BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE PRC;

-- THE PRESIDENT ADMITTED THAT DIFFERENCES EXIST
BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND DR. BRZEZINSKI; HOWEVER,
THE PRESIDENT MAKES THE FINAL DECISIONS IN FOREIGN
POLICY.

3. ON THIS LAST POINT, TASS IDENTIFIES BRZEZINSKI
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AS ONE "WHO IS ACCUSED HERE (IN WASHINGTON) OF ATTEMPTS
TO BRING SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS BACK TO THE TIMES
OF THE COLD WAR." THE PHRASING IS SUCH AS TO
SUGGEST THAT THE PRESIDENT DID NOT DENY THIS POINT,
BUT MERELY CITED HIS ULTIMATE DECISION-MAKING
AUTHORITY.

4. IN A CLEAR EFFORT TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS AFRICAN
ISSUES, TASS SIMPLY NOTES THAT THE PRESIDENT
"REPEATED IN A GENERAL WAY" HIS FORMER POSITION IN
THESE AREAS.

5. COMMENT: THE TASS TREATMENT OF THE PRESIDENT'S
COMMENTS APPEARS TO BE A NON-CONTENTIOUS RESPONSE
TO STATEMENTS WHICH WERE BASICALLY CONCILIATORY IN
TONE. THE UNUSUAL NUMBER OF DIRECT QUOTES OF THE
PRESIDENT PROBABLY REPRESENTS TASS' METHOD OF
SUGGESTING TO THE DISCERNING SOVIET READER THAT THE
STORY CONCERNS ONLY THE WORDS OF THE PRESIDENT,
AS OPPOSED TO CONCRETE ACTIONS BY THE U.S. SIDE TO
ALLEVIATE THE STATE OF RELATIONS. LEST ANY LESS-
THAN-DISCERNING READERS MISS THE POINT, PRAVDA HAS

TWO NEGATIVE ARTICLES IMMEDIATELY ADJOINING THE
REPORT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE. ONE, A "COMMENTATOR'S
COLUMN," GIVES A TENDENTIOUS REVIEW OF THE VICE
PRESIDENT'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP AND OF U.S. POLICY IN
THE REGION. THE SECOND IS A THREE-PART TASS ITEM
ON THE EVENTS IN YAR AND PDRY, WHICH INSINUATES
THAT BOTH CASES WERE LINKED TO U.S. AND SAUDI
ARABIAN MACHINATIONS TO ESTABLISH "REACTIONARY
REGIMES" IN THESE COUNTRIES. CONTINUING THIS
CRITICAL THEME IS JUNE 29 PRAVDA "COMMENTATOR'S
COLUMN" WHICH UNFAVORABLY CONTRASTS LATIN AMERICAN
"REALITY" TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLAIMS MADE IN HIS

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SPEECHES TO THE OAS MEETING IN WASHINGTON. TOON

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